

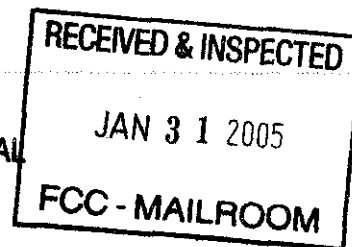
# Akimeka

A Native Hawaiian Company

January 20, 2005

Commissioners  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S. W.  
Washington, D.C 20554

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RE: Support Comments for Petition for Waiver, CC Docket No. 96-45

Akimeka, LLC, is a native Hawaiian-owned and operated company and a Department of Defense (DOD) contractor. We are in full support of the recent Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. (SIC) filing of the petition for waiver, and we encourage your immediate approval.

We have participated with SIC in partnering to provide economically challenged rural communities with modern telecommunications and other technological tools to help revitalize the economic well-being of these communities.

Akimeka, LLC has been on the forefront in the area of telemedicine applications, and there is a great need in rural Hawai'i for remote healthcare services. As an example, Akimeka LLC developed an electronic medical record (EMR) for Saint Francis Medical Center/Catholic Charities' Mobile Care Project on the Island of Hawai'i. This project is co-sponsored by Bay Clinic and Hamakua Health Center, providers for the unserved populace. These clinics provide services to the Native Hawaiians in the remote areas of Puna and Ka'u. The EMR application enables first-line providers to track patient information via secure VPN to their tertiary care facility. Though the application provides tremendous benefit for providers and patients, we continue to overcome the challenges of old copper phone infrastructure and the inability to transfer files including data, voice and video. Hence we are constantly adjusting our software to accommodate antiquated phone lines meant only for voice communications.

This is where SIC comes to the table – they offer the solutions to satisfy the greatest need – building modern utility and broadband infrastructure for the rural Hawaiian Home Lands (HHL) communities. Their fiber-based backbone is the solution to meet the need.

For the past seven years, SIC has been focused on providing affordable telephone and broadband services to unserved, bypassed or new HHL communities, and SIC's efforts is making a difference in the development of rural and remote communities. Your approval of SIC's petition will assure HHL communities that they will have the opportunity for access to quality healthcare in addition to telecommunications services found in the urban and populated areas of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We feel it is extremely important for the entire State of Hawai'i that SIC be allowed to continue making a difference for HHL

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communities without disruption, and we encourage your support and approval to grant SIC the waiver it is seeking.

Please feel free to contact me directly if question at 808.754.4401 or [vaughn@akimeka.com](mailto:vaughn@akimeka.com).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vaughn G. A. Vasconcellos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vaughn" being more prominent.

Vaughn G. A. Vasconcellos  
President & Manager  
Akimeka LLC